



CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
530 SOUTH KING STREET, ROOM 202
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3065
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-5010 • FAX: (808) 768-5011

July 8, 2020

VOTERS TO DECIDE ON YOUTH COMMISSION AND ETHICS REFORMS IN GENERAL ELECTION

The Honolulu City Council today unanimously passed two proposed charter amendments, introduced by Councilmember Tommy Waters, which the voters of the City and County of Honolulu will decide on this November in the general election. The main purpose of the charter amendments is to promote greater participation and trust in government.

Resolution 19-329, relating to creating a Youth Commission for the City and County of Honolulu, will be placed on the 2020 General Election ballot as follows: "Shall the Revised City Charter be amended to establish a Youth Commission under the Managing Director?"

Should the charter amendment pass, a youth commission shall be formed consisting of fifteen members, each of whom shall be between the ages of fourteen to twenty-four years at the time of appointment and shall serve for staggered terms of two years. The commission shall advise the council and mayor on the effects of policies, needs, assessments, priorities, programs, and budgets concerning the children and youth of the city.

"The City Council has witnessed how our youth mobilized and came out in force to tirelessly advocate on issues including the environment, affordable housing and public transportation to protect Hawai'i for their future," said Councilmember Waters. "It is now our turn to advocate for them by acknowledging that their opinions can make a difference. Mahalo to the youth and all of the organizations across the sectors of public health, youth development and environmental sustainability that testified in support of a Youth Commission. For my children and the many youth who exemplify the best of our island home, I urge voters to be informed on this charter amendment and consider voting in support of it in November."

Resolution 19-331, relating to the Honolulu Ethics Commission, will be placed on the 2020 General Election ballot as follows: "Shall the Revised City Charter be amended to allow the Honolulu Ethics Commission to control its own budget after it has been enacted?"

The proposal seeks to grant the Ethics Commission greater autonomy over its budget by prohibiting the withholding of funds once its budget has been appropriated by the City Council.

"I urge voters to be informed on this charter amendment and consider voting in support of it in November, as it will strengthen the Ethics Commission and benefit the residents of the City and County of Honolulu that it serves," said Councilmember Waters. "I want to extend a warm mahalo to all of the good governance advocates who testified in support of reform."

For more information on these charter amendments or the Honolulu City Council, please go to the following web sites: <http://www.honolulucitycouncil.com> or <http://www.honolulu.gov/council>

###

Media Contact:

Louise Kim McCoy
Communications Director
Honolulu City Council
(808) 768-5078